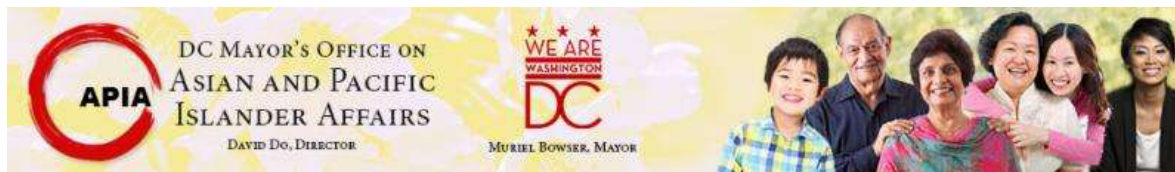


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## OAPIA Update Newsletter

*Biweekly News Updates from the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA)*

### A Message from the Director

**Dear Community Members:**

I had a great time celebrating the arrival of the spring season while cleaning up the city during the #SpringIntoAction Community Clean Up this past weekend. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers like you, we were able to clean up our neighborhoods all across the District.

And I hope you will also join me at [Mayor Muriel Bowser's first ever State of the District Address](#) next Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 6:30 pm at the Historical Lincoln Theatre. Mayor Bowser will bring forth her vision for the city, and on issues important to you, including housing and the economy.

Speaking of issues important to the community, the Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA), along with the Office on African Affairs (OAA), and the Office on Latino Affairs will be participating in the [2015 DC Department of Parks and Recreations \(DPR\) Multicultural Employment and Summer Camps Fair](#) on March 26, 2015 from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Reeves Municipal Center, 2000 14th St NW. We would like to invite all multicultural communities to attend to learn about summer employment opportunities and camp opportunities. Come bring your resume, meet us to discuss your concerns, and enjoy the free food tasting that reflects the diversity of our wonderful city.



Warm regards,

David Do  
Director, DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

### OAPIA in the Community

#### **OAPIA Welcomes AAPI Bowser Administration Appointees**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - The DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) welcomed Mayor Muriel Bowser's recent appointments of Hanseul Kang as the State Superintendent of Education and Allison Ladd as the Chief of Staff of the DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

"We are excited to welcome a great education advocate in Hanseul Kang and housing advocate in Allison Ladd," said David Do, OAPIA Director. "These appointments reflect Mayor Bowser's fresh start commitment to ensuring that District government is reflective of the city's growing diversity, and responsive to the needs of its residents, including the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community."

For the entire [press release](#), please visit [here](#).

### **OAPIA Director Do's Office Hours in the Community**



*OAPIA Director Do interacting with an attendee in Ward 5.*

OAPIA Director Do held public office hours in Petworth in Ward 4 at the Qualia Coffee on March 11, 2015 and in Brookland in Ward 5 at Askale Cafe on March 18, 2015. OAPIA Director Do is holding office hours in all eight wards across the District to stay connected with the community and to provide constituents with easy access to District government to share concerns and issues.

### **OAPIA Meets with Small Business Owners and Residents**



*OAPIA Director Do and a Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officer talk to a small business owner.*

On Thursday, March 19, 2015 and on Friday, March 20, 2015, OAPIA Director Do and staff met with Asian American and Pacific Islander small businesses and residents in Ward 2 and the Metropolitan Police Department's 7th District in order to remind them about OAPIA agency services and to address any concerns they may have. OAPIA has been visiting small business owners, local community based organizations, and meeting residents as part of continued outreach and engagement efforts.

### **OAPIA Attends the Wah Luck House Apartments' Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration**





*Residents of the Wah Luck House apartments celebrating the Chinese Lunar New Year.*



*OAPIA Director Do with Wah Luck House apartments residents and friends.*

On March 20, 2015 and on Friday, March 20, 2015, OAPIA Director Do and staff celebrated the Chinese Lunar New Year with the residents of the Wah Luck House apartments in Chinatown.

## OAPIA Participates in Citywide #SpringIntoAction Community Clean Up



*OAPIA Director Do and agency staff with the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services, Logan Circle Community Association, and volunteers from Ascend.*

On Saturday, March 21, 2015, OAPIA Director Do, agency staff, other District government officials, and volunteers participated in a community clean up around Logan Circle in Ward 2 to kick off the first weekend of spring. On that day and in all corners of the city, volunteers and residents got together to improving the city through community service.

## OAPIA Attends the American Chinese Restaurant Association (ACRA) Reception





*OAPIA Director Do addressing reception attendees and guests.*

On March 24, 2015, OAPIA Director Do and agency staff attended a reception to celebrate the founding of the DC metropolitan chapter of the American Chinese Restaurant Association (ACRA) and the relocation of the ACRA national headquarters to the District.

### **OAPIA Attends First AAPI LGBTQ Task Force Meeting**



*Attendees of the first ever AAPI LGBTQ task force meeting.*  
Image courtesy of: The DC Center for the LGBT Community

OAPIA Director Do attended the first meeting of the AAPI LGBTQ Task Force at the DC Center for the LGBT Community within the Reeves Municipal Center on March 24, 2015. The task force will serve the major purpose of linking the AAPI LGBTQ community to District government programs and services that are available to the community and will create opportunities for the District government to engage the broader AAPI LGBTQ community.

Spotlight: ASHA for Women



In many South Asian languages, "asha" means "hope," and women of South Asian descent who are survivors of domestic abuse can turn to ASHA for just that. ASHA for Women serves South Asian women and children affected by domestic violence in the Washington, DC area. Its goal is to provide the support that empowers South Asian women to become self-reliant and live in an abuse free culture.

ASHA for Women offers a toll-free helpline to assist people in various languages. ASHA for Women also helps with custody hearings and access to reduced-cost or pro bono legal and medical services.

For more information about [ASHA for Women](#) or ways to get involved, please visit [here](#).

## March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month



In 1987, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation declaring March as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. The proclamation was a result of years of advocating on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The goal of the month is to increase the public's awareness and understanding of people who have disabilities so they can experience and have more access to community employment, education, housing, and social opportunities.

Disabilities are a natural part of the human experience that does not diminish the right of individuals with development disabilities to love independently, to exert control and choice over their own lives, or to fully participate in all aspects of society. Our communities are stronger when everyone is welcomed and included.

For more information on Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month or related resources, please visit:

- [DC Developmental Disabilities Council](#)



- [DC Department on Disability Services](#)
- [DC Office of Disability Rights](#)

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